

## Visualising Belongingness to the Urban Space: Locals and Migrants in Toxteth, Liverpool

This exhibition is about the physical environment and everyday life in Toxteth. It aims to enhance our understanding of the way urban dwellers, both locals (L) and migrants (M), experience belongingness to urban space, and the effect that aesthetics have on this dynamic. The exhibition as a whole celebrates the particularity of Toxteth as a locality, its key features in terms of human-spatial relations, and some of its distinct landmarks. The photos, quotes and captions derive from a British Academy funded project titled *Bringing the aesthetics in: migrants' relationship with urban space in Toxteth*. Fieldwork for this project took place in 2015 (June-November) and generated a substantial amount of visual material in the form of photos taken by both participants and the research team. The exhibition was prepared as part of Festival 31 and Refugee Week (June-July 2016) in Liverpool, with a focus on diversity and refugees in the city.



### Exhibition:

Funding body: Edge Hill University

Prepared by: Dr Zana Vathi, Edge Hill University

Design and layout: Andy Butler, Edge Hill University

Curator: Joan Steele, Edge Hill University

### Research project:

Title: 'Bringing the aesthetics in: migrants' relationship with urban space in Toxteth'

Funding body: British Academy Small Research Grants (2015-16)

Principal investigator: Dr Zana Vathi, Edge Hill University

Co-investigator: Dr Kathy Burrell, University of Liverpool

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# The Georgian Quarter

Beauty and Georgian splendour



Grandeur and Solitude...





## Distinct landmarks and amenities

The only women's hospital in the UK



The 'nice' Toxteth



## Distinct landmarks: The Present Past...

A sign of the times



Remembering the Black Seamen





# Princess Avenue

A transient space...



No amenities on the boulevard?!





Spatial aversion, city (im)mobilities, demolition...





## Decaying beauty

The Welsh Cathedral



## Uprooting, Dereliction and Dilapidation

'It kind of puts...you don't feel – it's like a negative energy about places, you know, like when it passes on to yourself, isn't it?!' (L)





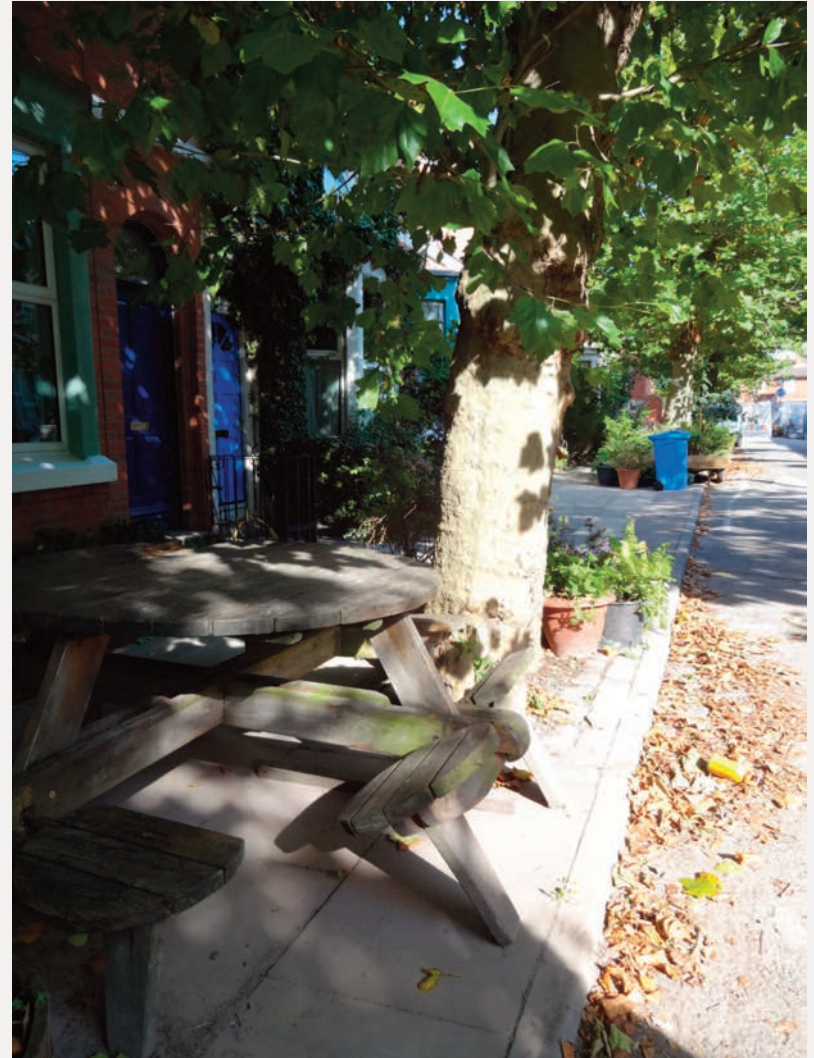
# Grassroots Regeneration

The local women took to the streets... and planted and painted everywhere





## Beautifying places: grassroots planting action





## Something for everyone: green community projects

‘This is what I feel L8 is. It’s all about changing the tides about what Toxteth, what happened in Toxteth all those years ago and there are so many people really trying hard to get away from it and I think this is the result’ (L)



Then the builders came in...





## Easier on the Eye: charity action to beautify spaces





## Here to Stay: enhancing community life





‘This is our land’



‘... but they do kind of give you a sense of ownership. You know, an L8 flower bed... yeah, it’s because this is our land, it’s a stamp kind of thing’ (L)





## Spatialised struggle



‘I think part of the pride in being a Scouse comes from that, like having to struggle, in this particular area, especially’ (L)





## Street art on Ducie Street





## NO GRAFFITI





‘There is something a bit, a bit gritty about Liverpool.  
It’s a bit grim sometimes, but it has a really like, positive soul’ (L)





## Granby 4 Streets Market





## Artists' and bohemians' hub and backyard arts





# Princess Park

Green belongings and micro-sociality





## Celebrating Diversity

'L8 is a kind of a quilt' (M)





## Religious and Spatial Diversity





## Once Upon a Time a Global Portal City: Legacy and Spatial remembrance





## Architecture and Landscape: Homogenising cities





## Hello World: buzzy Lodge Lane





## L8 'Manchester' Superstore the BBC Food Retailer of the Year 2015





Food and faith:  
Gravity Centres for Minorities and Immigrants in the city





# Home abroad

## Lodge Café



## Inward and outward homing – bars and satellites





For all those that are gone





# Revival

Like a Phoenix from the ashes...

